

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 14 to clarify the invention intended to be claimed; added new Claims 15 and 16; cancelled Claim 13 without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of new Claim 16; amended Claim 12 to depend from Claim 9; and editorially revised Claims 7-12 and 14. Claims 1-6 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, Claims 7-12 and 14-16 are pending.

The specification has been amended for consistency.

Turning to the merits, in the Office Action mailed November 1, 2006, Claims 7 and 10-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,699,513 to Feigen et al. ("*Feigen*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,406 to Coile et al. ("*Coile*") and Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Feigen* and *Coile*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,845,068 to Winiger ("*Winiger*").

Without acceding to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), independent Claim 7 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, generating, in the gateway machine, a thread which establishes a first connection, wherein the generating is performed in response to the detection of a request addressed to a first port of a server application to establish the first connection. Independent Claim 14 has been amended to include features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 7. It is apparent that *Feigen* and *Coile*, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above-noted features of amended independent Claims 7 and 14.

For example, *Feigen* discloses that a security service process 88, which runs on a security host 26, is performed in response to a second connection request from a source host 22 directed to the security host 26. *Feigen*, col. 5, ll. 30-32; col. 6, ll. 4-11; Fig. 4, item 78; Fig. 5, item 90. A request directed to the security host (i.e., the second connection request from source host 22) does not constitute generating a thread in response to the detection of the request addressed to the first port of the server application. As such, *Feigen* fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of amended Claims 7 and 14. *Coile*, for its part, fails to cure the above-noted deficiency in *Feigen*, nor does the Office Action rely on *Coile* for this teaching. Moreover, *Winiger*, which was used to reject Claims 8 and 9, fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies in *Feigen* and *Coile*, nor does the Office Action rely on *Winiger* for these teachings.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 7 and 14 patentably distinguish from the applied prior art. Further, Claims 8-12, 15, and 16 are believed to be patentable due to their dependence from independent Claim 7, as well as for the additional features recited in Claims 8-12, 15 and 16.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2147-907461) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MILES & STOCKBRIDGE, P.C.

By: 

Edward J. Kondracki  
Reg. No. 20,604

January 26, 2007

Eric G. King  
Reg. No. 42,736

1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500  
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833  
Telephone: (703) 610-8647  
4841-4008-0129